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Residents carry the Olympic Torch around the country

A FLAMING GOOD DAY



By Oliver Evans

PEOPLE from north Oxfordshire played their part in the Olympic torch relay as it arrived to Oxfordshire.

Although the procession did not come through Banbury, residents appeared across Oxfordshire – and further afield – holding the famous flame aloft.

Ahead of them all was 1st Bodicote Scout leader Keith Church, 45, who carried it in Haverhill, near Cambridge, on Saturday.

Cubs and Scouts made the journey for Mr Church's appearance, which took place as the rain made way for sunshine.

Mr Church, from Bloxham Road, Banbury, was nominated by colleagues for his work with the movement. He said: "I don't usually like to be the centre of attention, so I was nervous when I was waiting for the flame to be transferred to me."

"My nerves disappeared as soon as I heard the Cubs and Scouts cheering and shouting my name."

"They were all holding out their hands to me as I ran past."

The dad-of-three will show visitors the torch at the Bodicote Scout Fete on September 16.

The flame came to Bicester, Kirtlington, Woodstock and Kidlington on Monday, where Robin Gardner, 54, was among the torchbearers.

The Milcombe resident was nominated by Jon Hater, his former manager at Chipping Norton's Co-op, for his dedication to the company, including 34 years without a sick day.

Mr Gardner said: "It was brilliant, I absolutely

■ continued on page 3

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1st Bodicote Scout leader Keith Church with the flame near Cambridge

InBRIEF

CCTV clues to Mill break-in

■ **BLOXHAM:** Police would like to speak to these two men in connection with a burglary at the Bloxham Mill Business Centre.

Burglars broke in shortly before midnight on Wednesday, June 27, and stole two network cards which affected Internet connection at the centre. They are not believed to be worth anything.



They escaped in a dark Volvo and crashed into a police car as they headed towards the M40.

One man is white, in his mid-20s, of medium build, and the second is black, also in his mid-20s, of medium build, with a moustache.

Call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Decision day on sixth form

■ **BLOXHAM:** Councillors will next week be asked to approve the expansion of Warriner School to include a sixth form.

An Oxfordshire County Council officer's report recommends the cabinet approve the plan for September next year.

Some 29 people supported the proposal in a council consultation but Banbury School and Dashwood Primary School objected.

The council will provide £550,000 for a new building if the plan is approved on Tuesday.

Employment opportunities

■ **BANBURY:** Job seekers, families and young adults are invited to find out what opportunities there are for work and training.

The 'opportunities fair' will be held at the Banbury Hub, Hilton Road, from 10am to 2pm on Saturday.

Among the employers there to discuss work opportunities will be Kraft Foods.

To find out more, contact Sophie Black on 07785 453263.

Outdoor pool has opened

■ **BANBURY:** Woodgreen Outdoor Swimming Pool has opened for the summer.

The Woodgreen Avenue pool will open from 10am to 1pm and 2-5pm on weekends and during school summer holidays, and 3pm to 5.30pm in the week.

All-day tickets have been introduced this year. Tickets are £3.70 for adults and £2.30 for children and seniors.

Hobby horses on the gallop for Olympic-style events



THE rain mercifully held off Banbury's historic hobby horse celebration on Sunday.

More than 1,000 people flocked to the town centre and People's Park for the event.

They welcomed an Olympic-style procession from Banbury Town Hall to the park for an afternoon of fun.

Visitors enjoyed races featuring the wooden horses, sporting demonstrations and Olympic-style events.

Among those putting on demonstrations were youngsters from Banbury's Sharon Green

Dance Academy.

Mrs Green said: "It was brilliant, the weather held for us."

"The girls were going to put on their little high heels but because of the weather we decided to put them in wellies."

Enjoying the sunshine was Banbury resident Lisa Vass, 40.

She said: "It was good, it was great event for the community."

The event also marked Town Mayor's Sunday for Banbury Town Council.

Leader Kieron Mallon said organisers heaved a sigh of relief as the rain held off.

Planning application submitted for multi-storey near to station

Car park bid would create 700 spaces

PLANS have been submitted to provide more than 850 extra parking spaces at Banbury station.

Chiltern Railways has submitted a planning application for a multi-storey car park with a footbridge connecting it to the station.

The four-storey car park would provide 707 spaces on land next to the Royal Mail sorting office and the firm's control centre. It comes after the firm

By Oliver Evans

submitted plans in May for a temporary car park for 149 spaces opposite the station.

It hopes both will aid the expected loss of 376 spaces around the Tramway Industrial Estate when leases expire next summer.

Cherwell District Council will decide both plans.

Chiltern Railways business

development director Graham Cross said: "We are committed to finding a long-term car parking solution to accommodate present and future rail passengers from the region and to avoid the loss of spaces when the current lease arrangements expire."

The company told the council that passenger numbers were increasing at a "much faster rate" at Banbury than across the UK. This was down to better train services, new housing and

extra parking, up from 254 spaces in 2005 to 631 spaces last year, it said.

Plans for more than 3,900 homes in the next 14 years will further increase demand.

Banbury commuter and Cherwell Rail Users Group chairman Chris Bates said: "Banbury has needed a proper car park for a long time."

"This will solve the space problem by putting the parking in one place. We would wel-

come this, subject to suitable access."

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon welcomed the news. The Conservative said: "Parking at the station has been a problem for a while and it has been an aim and ambition of the town council for Chiltern Railways to get extra parking."

The multi-storey would have a drop-off zone and short stay parking for a maximum of 20 minutes.

Work begins on the removal of Second World War explosives

WORK has started to clear a building site of any more buried Second World War bombs.

In April, Taylor French Developments was forced to stop building 15 homes on scrubland opposite Tesco Express in Middleton Road, Banbury, after incendiary devices were discovered.

Specialist firm BACTEC International

Ltd has carried out a survey, and was at the site from yesterday to dig up the ground and sift through the soil.

Brian Ball, a partner at Tring-based Taylor French Developments, said the devices were difficult to detect as they were in glass bottles.

It is hoped the work will take about two weeks and then builders will get a

clean bill of health to re-start on site.

Mr Ball said: "The survey has been instigated as a result of Second World War incendiary devices found earlier this year during excavation works."

"As a responsible developer, Taylor French Developments has commissioned the remediation works which will allow the removal of any further

potential risk from Second World War devices which will ensure that the development can proceed as originally planned."

The works commenced yesterday and are expected to take two weeks to complete.

"We are hoping to be back on site in about a month's time," he added.

District gets more recycling banks in a bid to reduce landfill use

MORE recycling banks are to open in north Oxfordshire after 10 were added to Banbury, Bicester and surrounding villages.

The Cherwell District Council facilities take items including glass and recyclable containers.

The council now has 88

banks and hopes to increase these to 95 by April.

Areas being looked at include Begbroke, Kirtlington, Islip, Bloxham, Yarnton and Deddington.

The new banks in Banbury are at: Chandos Close; Broome Way; Causeway, Londis;

Southam Road and The
Musketeer in Ruscote Avenue.

In Bicester, the facilities are at the Star Inn, Bucknell Road and McColls at Villiers Road.

They have also been installed in lay-bys in Bicester Road, Caversfield; the B430 in Middleton Stoney and the

Bodicote to Adderbury Road in Twyford.

Cherwell lead member for clean and green Nigel Morris said: "We already have a very successful kerbside recycling operation in the district but we can't collect everything from homes. We're hoping that if we

make it easier for people to reach a recycling bank they will be more inclined to use it"

Suggestions and questions are welcomed through customer.service@cherwell-dc.gov.uk or 01295 227003.

For more details, go to
cherwell.gov.uk/recyclingbanks

Torchbearers tell of an amazing honour



Above, Robin Gardner with the flame in Kidlington; top right, Dave Earle carries it in Wallingford



Banbury Cake

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Although we strive to avoid errors, some may slip through the net. If you find an error of fact, please write to the Editor, Simon O'Neill, at Newspaper House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0EJ, or telephone him on 01865 425450. It is our policy to correct mistakes where it is appropriate.



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■ continued from page 1

loved it. I was quite nervous when it approached but once I got hold of it and started running, I forgot about it. The crowd was amazing."

The torch continued to Oxford, where a celebration event for 20,000 ticket-holders was held on South Park on Monday night.

The next morning it left for Wallingford where torchbearers included Dave Earle, who runs the Spit 'n' Sawdust gym in North Bar Street, Banbury.

Mr Earle – also a member of Banbury Town Council – was nominated by a cousin for his sporting work with youngsters, including visits to schools and colleges.

And Banbury's Will Traves, 13, helped carry the torch at Nettlebed.

The pupil at Bloxham's Warriner School, was nominated by mum Beverley for the care shown to sister Victoria, 17, who has cerebral palsy and severe learning difficulties.

Other torchbearers from the area who carried the flame during the two days were Carly Castle, Graham Warland, Jemma Moore and Rebecca Scott.



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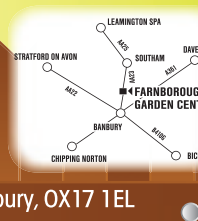


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■ **JAKE PREEDY**, 20, of Mascord Road, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis (Class B) in Banbury on February 20 and commission of a further offence subject to a suspended sentence. Jailed four weeks.

■ **CHRISTOPHER BARDON**, 24, of Dover Avenue, Banbury, admitted fraud by placing a skimming device over a cash machine and possession of an article for use in fraud, namely a skimming device, in Banbury on December 3. Given a six-week jail term, suspended for a year, with 200 hours' unpaid work. Told to pay £80 costs.

■ **JAMES CLARK**, 19, of Cornish Road, Chipping Norton, admitted burglary of three packets of cigarettes valued at £19.50 from the female baking room of The Fabulous Baking' Boys in Station Lane Industrial Estate, Witney, on February 3. Given a 12-month conditional discharge and told to pay £40 costs.

■ **SEAN LANGDON**, 45, of narrowboat Chaos, admitted being drunk and disorderly in Banbury on May 4. Fined £145, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **SAMUEL LOUTHER**, 20, of Edinburgh Way, Banbury,

InBRIEF

admitted using threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour to cause harassment, alarm or distress. Fined £73, a £15 victims' surcharge and £20 costs.

■ **ROISIN MCLAUGHLIN**, 21, of Bretch Hill, Banbury, admitted shoplifting four cans of lager valued at £7.50 from Londis in Banbury on March 28. Fined £110, a £15 victims' surcharge and £45 costs.

■ **LEAM WARREN**, 19, of Bath Road, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis (Class B) in

Banbury on February 9. Given a six-month conditional discharge.

■ **LEIGH LESTER**, 39, of Causeway, Banbury, admitted criminally damaging a window valued at £600 belonging to Timpons and a window of unknown value belonging to Holloways in Banbury on January 26. Told to pay £1,200 compensation and do 80 hours' unpaid work.

■ **CHRISTOPHER JACKSON**, 25, of Broome Way, Banbury, admitted driving without a licence and drink-driving on May 7. Had 70 micrograms of alcohol in 100ml of breath,

above the legal limit of 35 micrograms. Fined £200, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for 18 months.

■ **JAMES RADBURN**, 28, of The Fairway, Banbury, admitted drink-driving on May 5. Had 115 micrograms of alcohol in 100ml of breath. Given a three-month curfew and told to pay £85 costs. Banned from driving for 26 months.

■ **MICHAEL TEALL**, 21, of George Street, Banbury, admitted possessing cannabis (Class B) in Bicester on March 10. Fined £165, a £15 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

InBRIEF

OAP punched by a burglar

■ **BANBURY**: A 76-year-old man was attacked after he refused to let a distraction burglar – who claimed he needed to check his water supply – into his home.

The incident happened in Spring Lane at around 3.45pm on Friday, July 6.

Anyone with any information should contact Banbury CID via 101.

■ Bid to get people to build homes Project praised for innovation

By Oliver Evans

A PIONEERING housing project aimed at helping people build their own homes has been heralded by a Government minister.

Cherwell District Council's Build! scheme was praised as "innovative" by housing minister Grant Shapps.

The Conservative council's programme aims to provide 250 homes in three years to help get people on the housing ladder.

Last month the council announced it is seeking land for new projects and wants to buy empty homes for people to renovate.

This will see the council provide support such as finding land and getting planning permission and financing work.

The homes will be available to buy on share ownership or to rent at 60 to 80 per cent of the market value.

Tory Mr Shapps said: "We are witnessing a self-build surge in this country, with more people than ever looking to construct their own home."

He said the Government had acquired seven UK sites for such projects and will provide £30m support for others.



Housing minister Grant Shapps

He said: "I would urge authorities across the country to look to Cherwell and the innovative work there as an exciting example of how this can be achieved."

For information email Build@cherwell-dc.gov.uk



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InBRIEF**Attacked by burglar gang**

■ **BANBURY:** A 58-year-old woman was threatened with hammers and punched during a burglary.

The incident happened in Lapsley Drive, shortly after 4pm on Friday, July 6.

Three men entered the property and threatened the victim before stealing cash.

Det Sgt Steve Haddock said: "I am very keen to trace a gun-metal coloured Peugeot 206 which was parked in Sir Henry Jakes Close and left the area at speed."

Anyone with any information about this incident should contact Banbury Local CID on 101.

Woman fined for £4k fraud

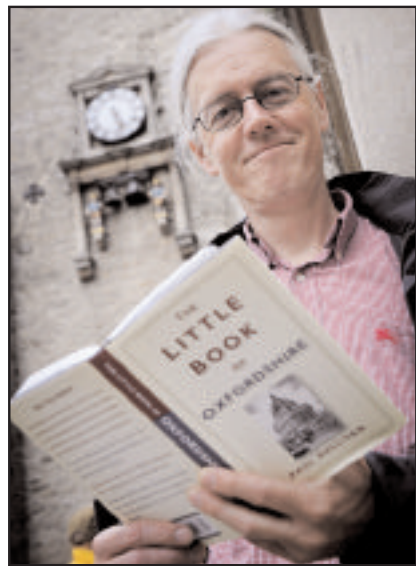
■ **BANBURY:** A 23-year-old woman has been told to pay back £4,600 she fraudulently claimed in benefits.

Caroline Jones, of Bretch Hill, failed to disclose changes in earnings that affected her housing and council tax claims.

Banbury magistrates ordered her to pay the £4,602.52. She was also fined £160 and ordered to pay £125 costs and a £15 surcharge.

■ **Writer has published *The Little Book of Oxfordshire***

Author reveals a fruity history



Paul Sullivan with his book

GRUESOME tales of murder, ghostly hauntings and bizarre traditions are unveiled in a new book about Oxfordshire.

The Little Book of Oxfordshire, by local author Paul Sullivan, brings together, facts, myths and stories from the county.

Mr Sullivan, 50, from Forest Hill, had just a month to write the book, which is part of a series from the History Press.

He said: "When you do this sort of thing, you start out with your favourite areas, so for me that was natural history and history of warfare within the county, but then you get to do all the other sections which are invariably the most interesting ones.

By Fran Bardsley

"I now feel we live in the most interesting county probably in the whole world."

Revealed in the book is the fact that in the Middle Ages, the Lord of the Manor at Aynho, near Banbury, used to demand part of his tenants' rent in apricots, which flourished in limestone soil and warm stone walls.

Mr Sullivan said his favourite story related to a giraffe skeleton now on display in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History which has a lead tail.

When the specimen was brought to the university in the 19th century, it smelt so bad that students threw it

into the street – whereupon a dog ran off with its tail before it could be retrieved.

Mr Sullivan said: "One of my favourite characters in all of Oxfordshire was William Buckland, a lecturer at the university in the 19th century who lived in Islip who used to eat any animal he possibly could.

"He was going around a cathedral in France and he was shown a stain on the floor which was said to be from the blood of a saint.

"Buckland immediately got down on his knees, licked the stone and announced it wasn't the blood of a saint, it was bat urine."

Mr Sullivan's day job is as a copy writer for OPP in North Oxford.

The book is on sale now for £9.99

InBRIEF**Fine lady is even finer**

■ **BANBURY:** The town's Cross is looking the best it has done for 50 years thanks to a £15,000 makeover.

The grade two listed tourist attraction was cleaned, mended and generally spruced up ready to welcome visitors to the town for another generation.

Banbury Town Council leader Kieron Mallon said the makeover was part of the Jubilee year celebrations.

He said: "We set aside funds last year to totally revamp the Cross and spring clean the surrounding area and Fine Lady."

"It's probably the best it has looked in 50 years after major cleaning and structural work has taken place."

Clean-up for town estate

■ **BANBURY:** The Bretch Hill area of town is to get a major clean-up next week.

Cherwell District Council said staff will go "above and beyond their normal street-cleaning routine" from Monday to Friday.

During the week, residents will be able to get rid of bulky items for free. For information call 01295 221940.

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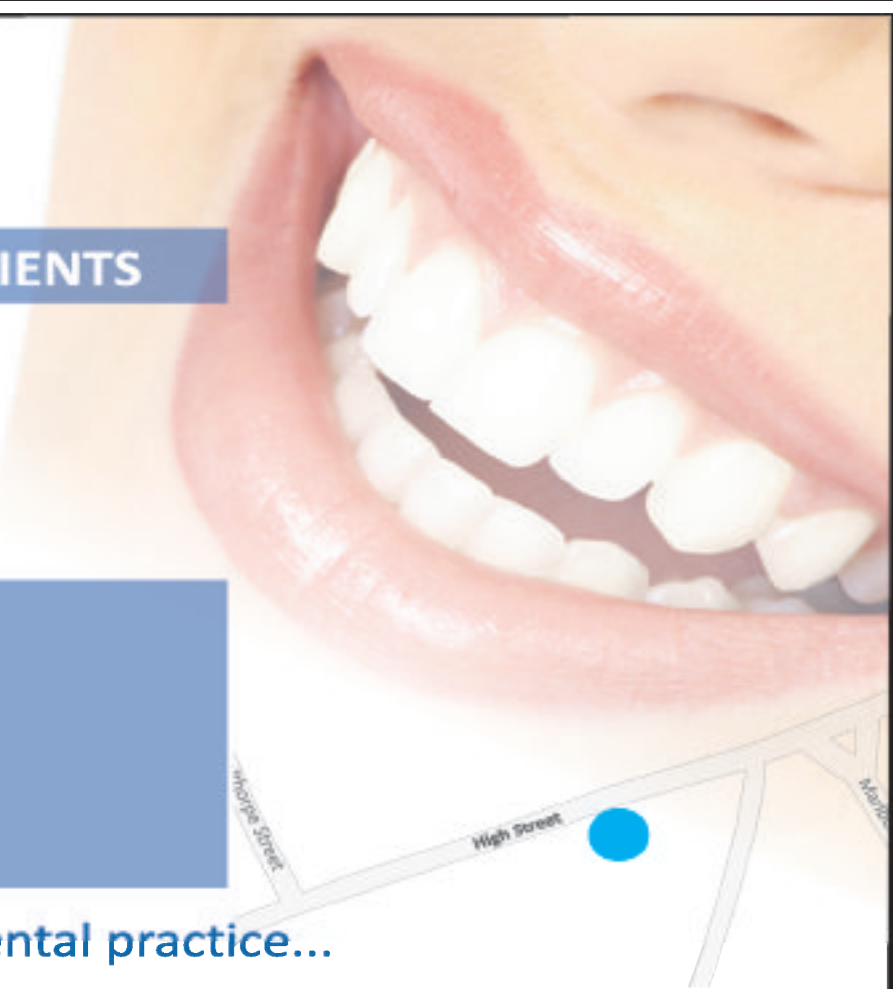
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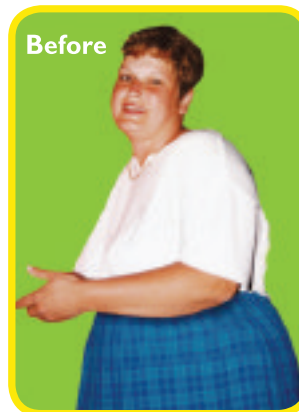
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Hobby Horse Fun!



Town Mayor's Sunday attracted hundreds of families to People's Park on what turned out to be a mostly sunny day instead of the expected rain.

Adults and children made the most of the good weather and crowded around the arena to watch fancy dress competitions and hobby horse races – and joined in with demonstrations of boxing and Tai Chi.

The day began with a procession from the town hall to the park led by the The Shires Royal British Legion Youth Band followed by civic dignitaries, hobby horses, and the afternoon's entertainers.

Town mayor Tony Iltott said: "The day was a great success. The weather was kind to us and we had a massive turn out despite the counter attractions of the F1 Grand Prix and Wimbledon.

"I would like to thank everyone who took part in the races and the entertainment, and all those who spent money at the charity and other stalls.

"I enjoyed the day and I hope everyone else did."

Contact us

Banbury Town Council can be contacted by calling at the town hall in Bridge Street, by telephoning Banbury 250340 or by emailing info@banbury.gov.uk. The council's website is www.banbury.gov.uk



Planning For Banbury's Future

A vision of how Banbury will look in 20 years time is being drawn up by councillors and planners.

The blueprint for the future will consider all aspects of town life including growth, traffic, the road network, the town centre, reducing the number of empty shops, and how Banbury can compete with other towns in attracting visitors and new employers.

The plan will also identify new development sites in and around the town.

Banbury Town Council is joining Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council in preparing the Banbury Masterplan to co-ordinate the expansion and improvement of the town between now and 2031.

Planning consultants WYG Planning and Design have been

engaged to draw up the plan and carry out a public consultation.

Banbury town councillors were given a preview of the project last week at a presentation in the town hall.

They were told that their input and ideas would be crucial to the future of Banbury.

Leader of the town council Kieron Mallon said: "This masterplan will look at the town and its future needs over the next 20 years – and for up to ten years after that.

"We need a vision of how the town is going to grow and prosper. We want to strengthen the town centre, reduce the number of empty shops, and secure a strong employment base.

"We also want to make Banbury a visitor destination, and we need to look at the town's traffic

problems. If we want people to come to Banbury, we must have reasonably easy access to the town centre."

He said: "The first stages of the plan are underway and information is being collated. Everyone will get a chance to have their say on the growth of the town – housing, business, transport, and tourism – with emphasis on strengthening the role of the town centre."

Cllr Mallon added: "This masterplan will be one of the most important documents for Banbury since the mid-1960s when the former Borough Council took the decision to expand the town from around 15,000 population to 40,000 – and gave the go-ahead for the Bretch Hill and Ruscote estates, and the Cherwell Heights development."

Banbury In Bloom

Gardeners who want to enter this year's

Banbury in Bloom competition have just one week before entries close.

Entry forms must be in by July 20 – and competition organiser Banbury Town Council is reminding people that the deadline is approaching.

The popular annual competition encourages residents and business people to decorate their homes and work premises with colourful floral displays.

Prizes in eight categories will be awarded – including an additional category this year for the best newcomer. The other categories are best back garden, best communal area, best diamond jubilee garden, best small garden, best hanging baskets/containers, best large garden, and best business premises.

Categories for children include the tallest sunflower and the colouring poster competition.

Entries should be taken or sent to Banbury Town Hall, Bridge Street, Banbury, OX16 5QB.



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Wuthering Heights is a brolly good challenge

You may have seen five actors clad in black skulking around the town centre with umbrellas.

But no, they are not mourning the death of another British summer.

The mysterious live sculpture is aimed at creating a buzz about Banbury Cross Players' upcoming *Wuthering Heights*.

But enticing director Linda Shaw to explain the brolly enigma is fruitless. "A-ha, people have asked about the umbrellas," she laughs, "but I'm not giving it away any more than saying the five umbrellas play a significant role in the show. "Also, we must be some of the only people praying for a grey week."

This is because not only will some gloom sit nicely with the dark themes of the Yorkshire moors saga ("I'm not going to lie, the plot is not a barrel of laughs is it?") but summer dates ramp up the challenge for any am dram company.

"July productions are always a struggle; you wonder 'will I have a cast, will I have an audience?' It's a time of year when holiday plans come up against you and you're

By Liz Nicholls

asking a lot of people's time."

Such was the dilemma that, for a long time, Linda thought she'd never find her Heathcliff. But, thanks to spreading the word on Facebook, up stepped Graham Macdonnall, a new member of BCP – but also an experienced TV and film actor. And he needed that experience as the lead role requires him to age along with Heathcliff – playing him from a young child right up to an old man.

Another facet of this innovative production is that the small company share out the roles, with one (namely BCP veteran Andy Allen) playing six characters – surely enough to make his head spin?

"None of the five characters ever go off stage and there are no costume changes so all the changes of character are made by speed of delivery and posture," adds Linda.

"Characters bring on certain props and do their own sound effects too and there is a good strong flow to the piece from the first act.

"If I had to give them a pat on the back for anything, it would be their energy – the action never stops coming and going."

This *Wuthering Heights* uses a script by Jane Thornton which tells the enduring love story between Cathy (played by BCP chairman Tara Lacey) and her Heathcliff and features innovative lighting and original music by Gavin Backhouse.

"If you staged the whole book it would be like some Kenneth Branagh five-hour epic, but this cleverly tells the whole story with chunks of narration," adds Linda.

"Much of the dialogue is lifted from the book so you get that wonderful poetry which makes the book so enjoyable.

"*Wuthering Heights* is such a passionate story; passionate in all the senses. It's the ultimate family saga and we hope people will be as excited as we are by it."

Wuthering Heights runs from Wednesday, July 18, until Saturday, July 21, at The Mill Arts Centre.

Call 01295 279002 or visit www.themillartscentre.co.uk for tickets.



UNDER COVER: The five actors shelter from the rain ahead of *Wuthering Heights*

Photographers' varied mix

A VARIED mix of photographs by young Banburyshire artists forms the next exhibition in the foyer gallery at the Mill Arts Centre.

Five photographers, all graduating this month from the Oxfordshire School of Creative Arts, contribute.

Work ranges from traditionally shot black and white prints to colour studies of feminist subjects and modern lifestyle images capturing personal moments.

Laura Boffin, from Bodicote, Claire McBride also from Bodicote, Victoria O'Rourke, from Banbury, Ann-Marie Essex, from Kings Sutton and Chloe Gentry, from Middleton Cheney all have work on display.

Laura Boffin's pictures are taken from her work studying steam power. "I'm fascinated in how steam is still used in our society, mainly by enthusiasts through personal interest," she says.

"I have taken pictures at Crofton Mill in Wiltshire and at the Didcot Railway and Hook Norton Brewery. My work is all taken on a very old Wista 5x4 field camera – using black and white film that I develop and print in the darkroom."

Miss Boffin has completed five years' training as a photographer



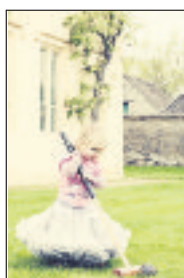
and returns to Banbury College in September for a year as artist in residence.

Victoria O'Rourke's images show how women and fit into society and the world. Appropriately entitled *You Are Only You*, this series of photographs has been built into a multimedia installation.

Claire McBride is a mature student who set up her own business while working towards her degree and specialises in lifestyle photography and Chloe Gentry displays a selection of



FOCUS:
Work by
Victoria
O'Rourke,
left, Laura
Boffin,
above,
and Claire
McBride,
right



pictures taken with a panoramic camera in a favourite wood. And Ann-Marie Essex has focused on the rural scenes in and around her home village, Kings Sutton, featuring the community's varied colours and textures.

The exhibition can be seen during Mill opening hours until August 11.



**Banbury Town Council
Presents....**

**BANBURY
FOOD FAIR 2012**

COOK OFF CONTESTANTS WANTED

Be part of this year's 'Ready, Steady, Cook' style competition - open to all abilities from professionals to amateurs.

- Ingredients provided.
- 45 minutes
- 1 meal

Showcase your cooking talents at
Banbury's 2012 Food Fair

Only 6 places available so contact us now for more information.



YOU COULD BE A WINNER!

This year we are incorporating the Popular Flower and Produce Show into Banbury Food Fair and are looking for exhibitors of the 5 categories available.

Prizes will be given to the best growers of flowers and vegetables, the makers of cakes and preserves, floral art and a number of other categories for children.

If you or someone you know grow flowers or vegetables or make cakes and preserves, we want to hear from you.



For more information on THE BANBURY COOK OFF or THE FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW call Ann Sewell on 01295 817314 or email ann.sewell@banbury.gov.uk



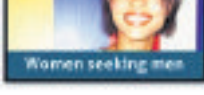
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Women seeking men

AFFECTION CONNECTION

Active, outgoing female, 27, GSOH, enjoys keeping fit, cinema, socialising, cosy nights in, seeking an honest, caring male, not afraid to show affection, for dates and possibly more. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427 or send a text to 80360

LONG LASTING HAPPINESS

Thoughtful Oxford female, 41, 5', medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine male for friendship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427 or send a text to 80360

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE

Curvy, outgoing Oxford female, 42, 5'8", works in health care, enjoys meals out, the outdoors and family life, would like to meet a man, to share good times with me. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123624

GREEN-EYED WILTING FINE

Curvy, green-eyed Wiltshire brunette, 44, looking for a genuine, loving guy, to share some caring times and future happiness. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 852093 or send a text to 80360

IT COULD BE US

Spiritual, active, genuine Didcot woman, 46, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123828 or send a text to 80360

OUR MOMENT

Lovely, hard-working, petite woman, 48, likes socialising, city pubs, eating out, seeks similar guy, for fun, laughter & hopefully more. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120616

HEADLINE NEWS

Affectionate and kind-hearted Chipping Norton female, 50, looking for a honest, caring kind guy 40-55, who is fun to be with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122645 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN

Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 51, grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man out there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 798804

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU

Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT

Sincere Swindon woman, 54, GSOH, fun personality, loves nights out, socialising and music, seeks a friendly bloke, to share lots of good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104377 or send a text to 80360

THAT SPECIAL PERSON

Honest, bubbly female, 55, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

HEADLINE NEWS Sincere, reliable Wiltshire lady, 56, likes dogs, travelling and good conversations, seeking an honest, reliable male, for company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 124692 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO START AFRESH

Black, caring, African Cypriot lady, 52", likes countryside, gardening, cooking and holidays, 50-70 for a long term relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117888 or send a text to 80360

JUST THE TWO OF US

Separated, slim, smart, attractive Marlborough lady, mid-50s, young at heart, likes meals out, dogs, cosy times and more, seeking a friend and soul mate, to go ahead with me in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 463551 or send a text to 80360

MEANINGFUL TIMES

Active, outgoing Trowbridge female, 57, loves cinema, seaside, travelling and animals, would like to meet a man for company leading to a possible relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117215 or send a text to 80360

SEARCH PHOTOS EMAIL

There are many more people for you to search, view and message online? Visit: www.twoscompany.co.uk

DO YOU HAVE A KIND HEART?

Oxford widow, 57, 5'3", blue-eyes, works full-time, enjoys socialising, walking my dogs, theatre, eating out & family life, seeking a decent man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123053 or send a text to 80360

SHARE THE JOURNEY

Attractive, outgoing Abingdon female, 58, slim-build, likes cinema, theatre, country walks, would like to meet a honest, fun-loving, caring man, for a possible lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123964 or send a text to 80360

FACING FORWARDS

Young at heart, attractive Abingdon woman, 59, GSOH, family orientated, active, enjoys keeping fit and animals, searching for a similar man, fun, honest and genuine, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125994

GENUINE AND CARING

Oxfordshire widow, 60, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, friendship guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

OVER THE MOON

Oxfordshire widow, 60, 5'6", slender, dark hair, sociable and caring, well-travelled and attractive, seeking a guy who is caring, professional and considerate. Could you be the one? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 467516

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

STRICTLY BALLROOM

Dance-loving lady, 61, 5'6", searching for a man, 5'10"+, N/S, who can jive, for friendship and ballroom dancing. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111203

LISTEN TO YOUR HEART

Happy go lucky Warminster female, 61, looking for a nice kind and reliable man to share good times together and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 120544 or send a text to 80360

BE YOURSELF

Cuddly, bubbly, caring Kidlington widow, 62, enjoys days out, country walks, dining and theatre, searching for an interesting, honest, non-smoking man, with GSOH, to add a little sparkle to life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126022 or send a text to 80360

KNOW WHAT MATTERS

Banbury, sophisticated Banbury lady, 62, own house and car, likes swimming and wondering about the countryside, would like to meet an up-lifting man, to fill in the gaps. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123403 or send a text to 80360

POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP

Part-time language teacher from Kidlington, 63, widow, likes walking, gardening, places of interest, dancing, seeking a chatty man for conversations and to laugh together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115447 or send a text to 80360

CHATS OVER A PINT?

Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man. I'm 63yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outside, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 112241 or send a text to 80360

FINALLY FOUND YOU

Friendly, attractive, arts Wantage lady, 63, enjoys the pet, history, music and places of interest, looking for that special man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123293

EACH DAY IS A NEW ONE

Blue-eyed Oxfordshire widow, 65, loves walks, reading, films, gardening and family life, searching for a nice gent, to share a warm and lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 105525

NEW IN TOWN

Easygoing, slim woman, 65, 5'6", blonde, likes jazz, live shows, reading and walks, seeks down-to-earth male, for genuine friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100721

LEADING TO MORE?

Genuine, happy Banbury woman, 66, GSOH, retired, widow, enjoys cats, cinema, theatre, visiting places, meals out, gardening, holidays, DIY and dancing, with a male companion, caring and honest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121137 or send a text to 80360

DOWN TO EARTH

Happy-go-lucky Swindon female, young 70, slim/medium build, loves walks, cooking, gardening, kisses and cuddles, looking for a non-smoking, clean-shaven man, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 454288 or send a text to 80360

GREAT COMPANIONS Wiltshire widow, 72, likes music, theatre, travel and more, searching an easygoing gent, for companionship, friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104917 or send a text to 80360

JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME

Intelligent, elegant, warm-hearted Banbury lady, early 80s, looking to meet a like-minded, successful companion, who enjoys cultural activities, keeps active and trying new things. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121812



Men seeking women

WE COULD BE GOOD TOGETHER

Down to earth Swindon male, 37, enjoys cycling, walks, travel and lots more, seeks laid back female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100773 or send a text to 80360

TIME TO SHARE

Lively Oxford male, 38, 5'10", med build, enjoys motorbikes, clubs, cinema, meals and more, searching for a loving woman, to share friendship and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117999 or send a text to 80360

THAT WONDERFUL FEELING

Laid back, sporty Woodstock male, 41, likes family life, nights in & out, having a laugh, seeks warm hearted easygoing female, for good company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114209 or send a text to 80360

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LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man, 53, good sense of humour, into most things, travelling, good foods, looking for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840

LOADS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Affectionate Wallingford male, 54, 5'8", enjoys country walks, walking my dogs, swimming, cinema, would like to meet a nice lady to share my life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122616 or send a text to 80360

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER

Divorced, young at heart male, 55, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 106762

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Laid-back male, 56, 5'7", muscular build, looking for a fun female, 40-60, for fun, laughter & more. Reading. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104111

CHANGE OF LUCK?

Warm, blue-eyed Banbury male, 46, 6ft, kind and truthful, intelligent and thoughtful, searching for an understanding woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125562 or send a text to 80360

LIFE IS MADE FOR TWO

Happy, active Abingdon man, 46, GSOH, med build, positive, enjoys walking, swimming and cinema, would like to meet a similar lady, 50-75, fit and positive, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 113438 or send a text to 80360

IT'S NOT UNUSUAL

Friendly Witney male, 47, 6', blue eyes, enjoys sports, music, cosy nights in, going out and having a laugh, would like to meet a female friend, for good company and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115039 or send a text to 80360

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH

Hardworking Oxford male, 50, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

TAKE A TRIP WITH ME

Open minded Oxford guy, 50, likes all kinds of music, reading, visiting galleries, going to the cinema, eating out, walking and good conversation, with a female to share good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115321 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE

Easygoing, active Kidlington male, 51, likes meals out, cinema, country walks and all the things couples do together, looking for that special female, to spend some quality time with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479 or send a text to 80360

SIMILAR IDEAS

Down-to-earth Kidlington male, 52, enjoys swimming, walks, cinema and dining, searching for a loving female, for a steady relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 125598 or send a text to 80360

NOT TO BE MISSED

Spontaneous, caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 53, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115773 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER

Looking Wallingford 58yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964

BETTER WITH COMPANY

Tactile male, 61, 5'7", wears glasses, likes days out, country walks, evenings in, looking for a young lady, 50-60, to enjoy these good times together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104324 or send a text to 80360

ROOM WITH A VIEW

Easygoing Oxford male, 61, likes walking and dining, theatre, holidays, pubs, clubs, seeking a genuine female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126505 or send a text to 80360

READY TO MOVE ON

Young, caring Didcot guy, 62, 5'9", enjoys the sea, reading and boating, would like to meet a similar lady for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117043 or send a text to 80360

You can also reply to people by text

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Call 0800 280 0896 or Email: support@twoscompany.co.uk**MAKE THE CONNECTION**

Outgoing widower, 57, smoker, N/D, lives in Oxford, looking for a nice female for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108952

THE HONEST KIND

Easygoing male, 57, from Oxford, likes cinema, sports, nights in, seeks female for friendship leading to love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110649

SHARING GOOD TIMES

Upbeat Burford widower, 57, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

CARING NATURE

Divorced male, 63", 5'8", cuddly build, brown eyes, GSOH, 58, out going, enjoys diy, animals, music, would like to meet genuine, kind, attractive female for friendship and maybe more. Carterton/Oxford Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

PASSION FLOWER

Looking Wallingford 58yr old, 5'9", dark hair, wears glasses, enjoys cinema, bowling, days out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122

MORE IN TIME

Self-employed Witney male, 63, loves cinema, theatre, eating out and more, searching for a serious-minded lady, for a loving and supportive relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109413 or send a text to 80360

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD THINGS

Well preserved male, 65, 5'10", adequate intelligence, passably handsome, active, inquisitive, liberal outlook, wlm bright, youthful lady for loving relationship and interesting times. Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108871

KINDRED SPIRITS

Presentable, educated chap, 65, enjoys the arts, history, places of interest, exploring towns/countryside on foot, with attractive, vivacious lady, for romance. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101058

LOVING LIFE

Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9", loves golf and motor, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and enjoy interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

LOOKING FOR LTR

Youthful, solvent, active retired businessman, 66, 5'9", 11st, own house and car, loves music, places of interest and experiencing the new, seeking a loving, feminine woman, to share a warmth. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 103799

NICE DAYS AHEAD Easygoing, non-smoking Abingdon widower, 70, 5'9", enjoys travel, pub meal and car boot sales, would like to meet a nice non-smoking lady, to settle down with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116036 or send a text to 80360

SOUL TO SOUL

Divorced, active male, 77, looks younger, 5'6", enjoys pubs, meals, car boot sales, crossword and cosy times, wlm charming female, to share quality times. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100937



Women seeking women

ME TIME

Divorced Swindon mum, 37, searching for straight female friends, for drinks, meals, shopping, chats, holidays and getting out more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 459673

HOPE THIS WORKS

Cuddly Swindon lady, 46, easygoing and fun to be with, looking for friendship leading to more with a nice, friendly, bubbly woman. Where are you? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 851817 or send a text to 80360



Men seeking men

PUTTING THE SPARK BACK

Easygoing, stocky built Oxford guy, 49, blue eyes, likes pubs, cinema, the arts, looking for a similar man 35-60, for companionship and hopefully we'll see where it leads to. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115976 or send a text to 80360

Laughing towards earth's destruction

SEEKING A FRIEND FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (15, 101 minutes)
Comedy/Romance. Steve Carell, Keira Knightley, Adam Brody, Melanie Lynskey, Rob Corddry, Connie Britton, Derek Luke, Nancy Carell. Director: Lorene Scafaria.

IT'S the end of the world as we know it, but there's still time for opposites to attract in Lorene Scafaria's delightfully offbeat road movie.

Infused with the writer-director's gallows humour and an air of wistful romanticism, *Seeking A Friend For The End Of The World* agrees with the Mayan calendar, which prophesies the end of civilisation in 2012.

For Scafaria, the chosen method of mass destruction is an asteroid called Matilda on a collision course with Earth.

Some characters choose to commit suicide rather than face their grim fate, many others seek out friends and family, enjoying the little time that remains with the people they love.

In a glorious opening scene, insurance salesman Dodge (Steve Carell) sits in a car with his wife Linda (real-life spouse Nancy Carell) as the radio reports the failure of the Space Shuttle Deliverance to divert Matilda from its trajectory.

"Stay tuned for all the latest developments on this ongoing story, as well as all your favourite classic hits," cheerfully informs the DJ before a blast of *Wouldn't It Be Nice* by the Beach Boys.

Linda flees the vehicle, never to be seen again, and poor Dodge returns to his unedifying daily routine, alone in a rapidly



Bittersweet Steve Carell as Dodge, and Keira Knightley as Penny in *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*

disintegrating world. His married best friends Warren (Rob Corddry) and Diane (Connie Britton) attempt to set him up with vamp Karen (Melanie Lynskey) but Dodge would rather spend his final days alone.

Until, that is, he meets vinyl-obsessed English rose Penny (Keira Knightley), who is crying on the fire escape outside his window, and asks to be let in.

With time running out, Dodge helps Penny to shake free of the shackles of her boyfriend Owen (Adam Brody), so that she can find a flight back home to Britain to be reunited with her family.

Seeking A Friend For The End Of

The World is a bittersweet end-of-days romance, distinguished by Carell's moving portrayal of an office drone, who doesn't want to die alone.

He tugs heartstrings with every mournful stare, and there is a lovely cameo late in the film from a well-known actor to bring some kind of resolution to Dodge's inner turmoil.

Knightley isn't completely comfortable with comedy but Scafaria's script delivers lots of belly laughs, relating the final countdown using TV and radio announcements.

However, as doomsday approaches, Scafaria cannot resist a few nods to cheesy convention.

Win tickets

JUST so you feel like you really are at the movies, the *Banbury Cake* and Odeon Cinema Banbury have teamed up to offer you the chance to catch up on the latest action blockbusters, sci-fi epics and family favourites.

Yes, every week in the *Banbury Cake* we'll be offering free tickets to go and see some of the silver screen's must-see movies.

And this week, we're offering a pair of tickets to see *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World*, or any other film, showing at the Odeon cinema in Horse Fair.

To stand a chance of winning, correctly answer the following question:

■ **Steve Carell, above, co-stars in the film with his real-life...**

- Wife?
- Sister?
- Pet dog?

Email your answer to jeremy.smith@nqo.com by noon, next Monday.

You must include a daytime telephone number as you will be contacted by phone. Normal Newsquest rules apply. The editor's decision is final.



CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: Musketeer, Ruscote Avenue, Banbury: Decades. Free. 9pm. 01295 269296.

The Wheatsheaf, 68 George Street, Banbury: Middleton Music warm-up gig. 8pm. 01295 266525.

SATURDAY: Manor Farm, South Newington Road, Barford Saint Michael: Bash in the Barn. 6pm. A With Shooter, 2twenty2, Ben Rogers and the Silverfish. 01869 338221.

St James Church, Church Street, Somerton: Commotio, British choral song. £12, concs £6. 7.30pm. 07977 466819.

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: *The Amazing Spider-Man*, 12A, Fri, Mon-Tue, Thu 12pm, daily 6pm; (3-D), daily 2pm, 9pm. *Ice Age IV - Continental Drift*, U, Sat-Sun 11.30am, daily 4.30pm; (3-D) daily

2, 7pm. *Magic Mike*, 15, daily 9.30pm. **Odeon Kids:** *Mirror Mirror*, PG, Sat 11am. Senior Screen: *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen*, 12A, Wed 11am (audio-described). Autism-friendly: *Ice Age IV - Continental Drift*, U, Sun 11am. 0871 224 4007.

The Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: *All In Good Time*, 12A, Sun 7.30pm. *The Source*, 15, Wed 7.30pm. *Goodbye First Love*, 15, Thu 7.30pm. 01608 642350

Theatre

Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball Park, Banbury:

Jul 12, Youth Theatre Showcase. £6, £3. 6.30pm. Jul 18-21, *Wuthering Heights*, by Banbury Cross Players. 7.45pm. £8.50, concs £7.50 (not Fri-Sat). 01295 279002

The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Jul 12-13,

Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat. St Mary's School presents. £7. 7.30pm. 01608 642673. Jul 20, *Black Umfolosi*. 01608 642350

Events

THURSDAY: Parenting workshop: The Windsor Room, Whately Hall Hotel, Horse Fair, Banbury. Free. 7.30pm. 01295 231320.

FRIDAY: Guy Warner exhibition: The Gallery, The Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton. Until Jul 18. Open during performances and films and Wed, Fri and Sat 11am-3pm. 01608 642350

SATURDAY: Craft and gift fair: Town Hall, Market Place, Chipping Norton. 10am-4.30pm. 07976 715908.

Fete and fun day: Milcombe village field, Church Lane. 12.30-4.45pm.

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Family thanks the world of Formula 1 as messages of support pour in following woman's loss of eye

Test driver is badly injured

THE family of Maria de Villota have said they are "taking comfort" from the support being shown to the Formula 1 test driver.

De Villota, 32, lost her right eye after extensive surgery following a test track crash at Duxford airfield in Cambridgeshire on Tuesday, July 3.

In a statement, the family said they "remain positive due to the support for Maria from every corner of the world".

The driver for the Banbury-based Marussia team remains in a critical but stable condition at Addenbrookes hospital in Cambridge.

De Villota was hurt when the MR-

01 race car she was driving hit a support truck. She had been driving at up to 200mph, but the car was travelling considerably slower at the time of the crash.

Speaking on behalf of the family, Isabel De Villota, Maria's sister, said: "While there is no further news at present, we have at least been able to take encouragement from the fact Maria has remained stable throughout since the accident, particularly during the first night following such a lengthy surgical procedure as she experienced. We, the family, are supporting each other here at Maria's side and we take great comfort from the remarkable medical care she has

been receiving. We remain positive and this is due, in no small part, to the overwhelming expression of love for Maria.

"We would also wish to thank everyone at the Marussia F1 Team for all the care and attention they have shown us over the past few days."

Messages of support for De Villota have come in from the motor racing world, including Ferrari driver and fellow Spaniard Fernando Alonso, Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton.

Sunday's British Grand Prix, at Silverstone, was won by Red Bull's Mark Webber, with Marussia drivers Timo Glock and Charles Pic finishing in 18th and 19th places respectively.



Marussia team test driver Maria De Villota

STARS with Claire Petulengro

Service provided by IMS Leeds LS1 8LB. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times

ARIES Mar 21-Apr 19 **LIBRA** Sep 23-Oct 22

Daily life should have plenty to keep you occupied and excited. There appears to be quite a bit of activity on your social scene and you are about to be offered the chance to expand your horizons. You have been bored with your usual group of friends for some time now but from this week life and love are about to get a whole lot more interesting. Call now and I'll tell you more.

0906 585 4360 **0906 585 4366**

TAURUS Apr 20-May 20 **SCORPIO** Oct 23-Nov 21

Relationships get taken to the next level. An odd request from a new acquaintance should be viewed carefully. Relatives become too involved in your affairs so don't be afraid to say so. An admirer whom you are not keen on could boost your morale and create jealousy from someone you do care for. Finances have signs of improving. Call now to hear how to keep them that way.

0906 585 4361 **0906 585 4367**

GEMINI May 21-Jun 20 **SAGITTARIUS** Nov 22-Dec 21

Don't let down those you've made promises to. Disruptive elements around now could cause you to be impatient, quick tempered and snappy "be careful". A romantic understanding is getting out of hand. The ball is in your court. A financial boost is quickly followed by a new commitment. Gemini subjects are very significant, both socially and at work. Call now for the low down on love.

0906 585 4362 **0906 585 4368**

CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22 **CAPRICORN** Dec 22-Jan 19

Celebrations of all kinds will be the centre of events this week. You may find out a secret or two about certain individuals, but beware whom you tell. Remember over old memories will help you feel at ease over the coming few days and to make peace with what did or didn't happen. Luck will be on your side when entering competitions. Call now to find out more about life and love.

0906 585 4363 **0906 585 4369**

LEO Jul 23-Aug 22 **AQUARIUS** Jan 20-Feb 18

You've been building up to some dramatics and now you've got them. You'll have the urge to spring clean your entire house and life, and have the mindset of out with the old in with the new. This also applies to your social life at present, and any people that you don't really get on with, should be phased out of your social circle. Call me now to hear why Gemini's spell improved funds.

0906 585 4364 **0906 585 4370**

VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22 **PISCES** Feb 19-Mar 20

The more you talk to people the less likely you are to bottle things up. However you're nit-picking about things you wouldn't usually even give a second thought to and you're in danger of making yourself look immature. If only you would speak about what is really on your mind, then all our lives would be a lot easier. Call now to hear what magic and growth Jupiter is ready to offer to your life.

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- New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Night
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CakeProperty

banburycake.co.uk/homes

Fancy living in a show home?

By Andrew Smith

BUYERS looking for a new home that is already furnished and decorated to a high standard should visit The Cross development in Banbury.

Taylor Wimpey is selling its four-bedroom semi-detached Devon show home off Oxford Road. It has been decorated and styled by professional interior designers and is ready to move into straight away.

The ground floor comprises a large kitchen/diner with French doors leading into the rear garden and a spacious living

room. There is also a utility room, cloakroom and storage cupboard on the ground floor which offers a wealth of storage.

On the second floor there is a double bedroom with an ensuite and two further bedrooms alongside a family bathroom with separate shower and a bath.

The third floor features the master bedroom with a luxury ensuite bathroom and a spacious dressing area, perfect for a walk-in wardrobe.

The property is on the market for £450,000 complete with all the furniture.

Darren McCormack, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, said: "The Devon would make an ideal upmarket

family home. There is plenty of space for the children to run around and by purchasing the showhome, you wouldn't have to worry about decorating or furnishing. Just pack your toothbrush and you will be settled in no time."

The Cross is less than half a mile from Banbury town centre and is very close to the railway station.

For more information and to book a viewing, visit the sales and marketing centre open Thursday to Sunday, 10am-5pm and 1-5pm on Mondays, or call 0845 071 8706.

Alternatively, log on to www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/oxfords hire



The kitchen of the show home in The Cross, Banbury

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Monet's Garden, Rouen & Paris

The charming village of Giverny, former home of artist Claude Monet, is the highlight of this weekend break.

Departs 2 Aug & 18 Oct 2012

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Enjoy this magical spectacle that ends with the lone piper atop the battlements of Edinburgh Castle.

Departs 24 August 2012

3 days from **£179.95**

Lindisfarne & The Alnwick Garden

Explore Northumbria's beautiful coastline, visit Holy Island and wonder at the magical transformation of The Alnwick Garden.

Departs 28 September 2012

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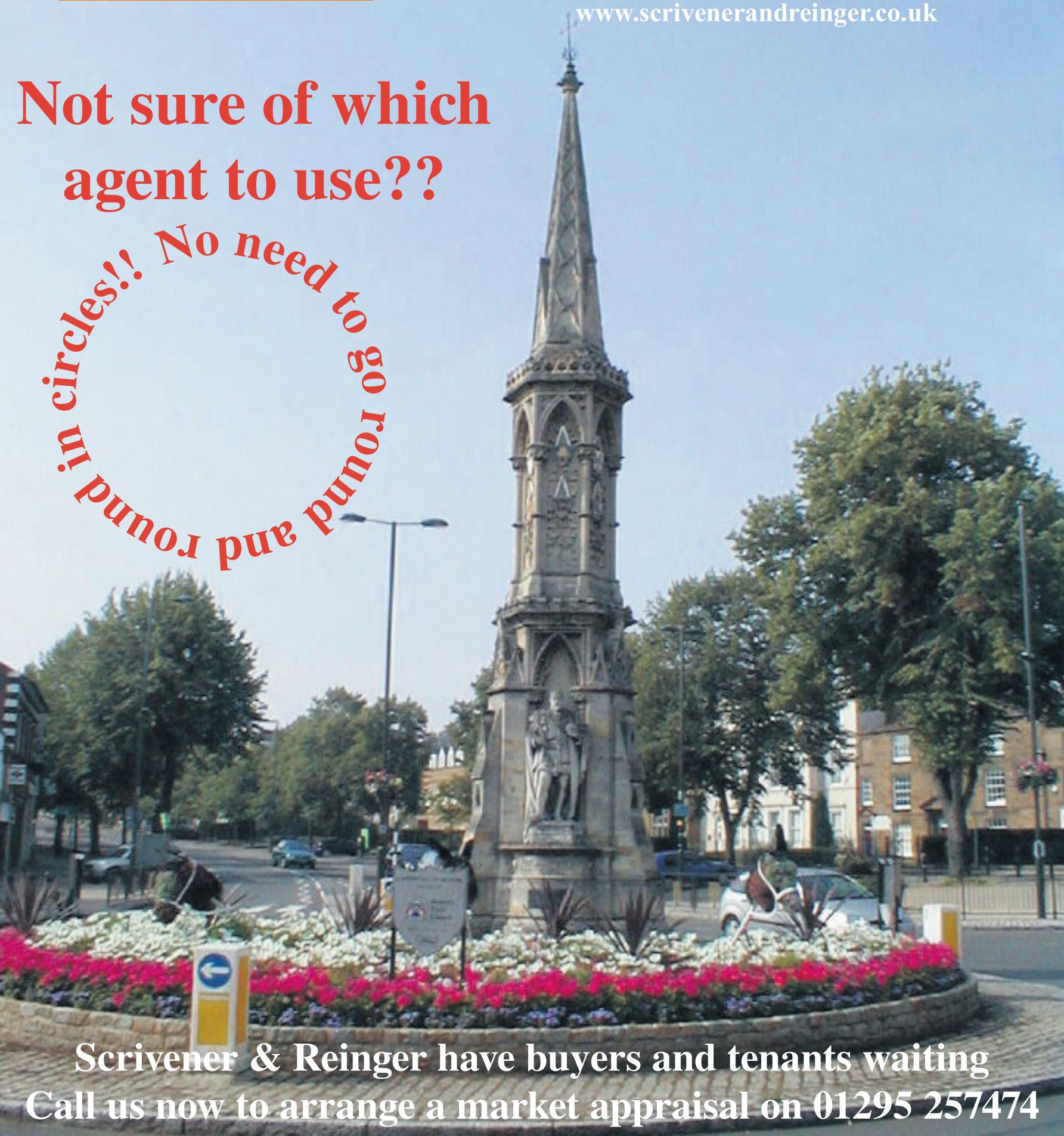
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NO CHAIN

£179,950

Ashmead Road

- A delightful two bedroom property offers:- downstairs cloakroom, lounge, kitchen-diner with built in appliances, two double bedrooms master with ensuite shower, main bathroom, good size garden with garage and parking **NO CHAIN**



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- We are pleased to offer this three bedroom home offers:- Entrance hall, Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Family Bathroom, Three bedrooms, enclosed garden and garage the property has far reaching views and easy access to the town centre.



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Tadmarton

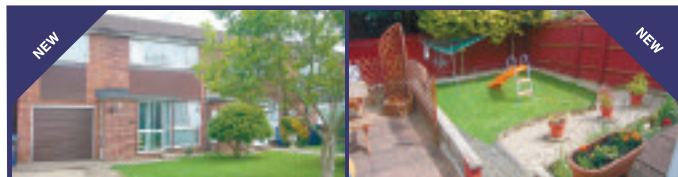
- Individual two bedroom cottage located in the village of tadmarton, kitchen, lounge with open fire, shower room, master bedroom with corner bath and ensuite w.c, further double bedroom, small garden area to rear, street parking, No chain



£159,500

Hastings Road

- This good size three bedroom family home set on a corner plot offers:- Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Main bathroom with separate W.C, Low maintenance rear garden, good size front garden with garage and driveway.

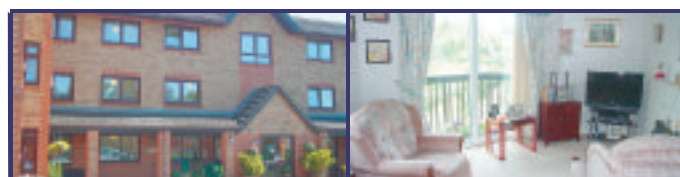


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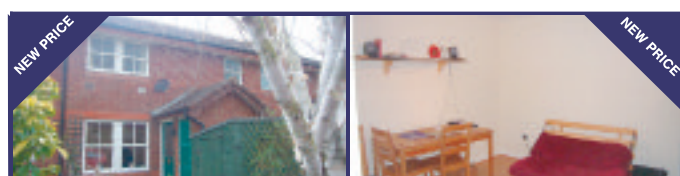


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Waltham Gardens

- A well presented one bedroom home offers:- Lounge, Kitchen, double bedroom, main bathroom, front garden ideal for investment or first time buyer.



£136,000

Lennox Gardens

- Three bedroom home comprises of:- porch entrance hall, lounge, kitchen breakfast room, utility area, two family bathrooms, three good size bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed off road parking.



No Chain

£99,950

Calthorpe Street

- One bedroom studio apartment Kitchen area with appliances Lounge Bedroom with en suite shower room Town centre Electric heating ideal for investment or first time buyer



No chain

£145,000

Warwick Road

- This property offers:- Three bedrooms Two reception rooms Kitchen Bathroom Garden Close to the town centre No chain Would benefit from some modernisation Gas central heating Doubt glazing



SSTC

£125,000

Guernsey Way

- This three bedroom property offers:- kitchen/ diner, lounge, sun room, bathroom, double glazing, gas central heating, garage in a block, low maintenance garden, needs attention



TO LET

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Boxhedge Road

- This good size Two bedroom home offers:- Lounge, kitchen/ diner, two double bedrooms, bathroom, Outer house with storage and outside toilet, good size Rear garden unfurnished available September



TO LET

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YIELDS ON THE RISE FOR LANDLORDS

Landlords reported an increase in rental yields during the second quarter of this year.

The Private Rented Sector Trends Survey, commissioned by specialist buy-to-let mortgage lender Paragon Mortgages, revealed that landlords achieved an average yield of 6.5%. This is an increase on Q1 where the average was 6.2%, and on the same time period last year where the average was also 6.2%.

Professional landlords achieved a higher average yield than the smaller-scale landlords surveyed, reaching 6.9% – an increase on 6.5% in Q1. Landlords views on current levels of tenant demand were that just over half (55%) of landlords said, for the moment at least, demand appears to be stabilising. However, more than a third (36%) believe tenant demand is growing.

Looking ahead, 44% of landlords expect tenant demand to increase over the next 12 months.

One-fifth of landlords are on the investment trail, with 21% planning to purchase buy-to-let property in the third quarter of this year.

Maria Lucas, Managing Director of Let Lucas Rental Specialists, said: "Strong tenant demand continues to place upward pressure on rents and we have as a result seen yields strengthen despite the pressure on consumers."

With more than 50 Acts of Parliament and 70 sets of regulations which landlords should be aware of, letting is a complex, specialist field. Contact Maria Lucas, Managing Director of Let Lucas Rental Specialists on 01295 234717 for a consultation with a qualified, licensed letting expert.

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Love Always
Bill, Julia, Barry, Paul Tracy,
Liam and Mark
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Special Thanks

DEAR HEART OF JESUS

in the past I have asked for many
favours, this time I ask for this special
one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of
Jesus and place it within your own
broken heart where your father sees it,
then his merciful eyes it will become his
favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days.
Promise publication and favour will be
granted. Never known to fail. D.S

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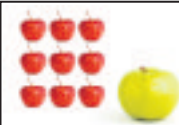
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£2,200

PEUGEOT 206CC CABRIOLET

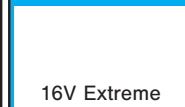
51 plate, silver, very good condition, fully MOT'd and taxed, runs superb, with all the extras, petrol

07979 702581

£1900

Renault

RENAULT CLIO 1.2



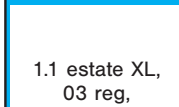
Red, 2002, 1497cc, petrol, E/W, Mot and Tax, tow Bar, low mileage. For more details phone

01865 371441

£1600 ono

Peugeot

PEUGEOT 206 SW



1.1 estate XL, 03 reg, tax Oct 12, MOT April 13, roof rails, immobiliser, remote central locking, PAS, ABS.

07904 475937 Corsham

£1250 ono

RENAULT LAGUNA PRIVILEGE

1.9dci, Green h/back, 52 reg, TD, Climate, Alarm, Alloys, Multi CD, C/RL, S/roof, 110,000 miles, 2 owners from new, MOT July 2013, economical, May P/X classic motorcycle

07702604821

£1,250

Renault

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC



Blue, 2005, 1598cc, petrol, air con, alarm, alloys, CD, C/RL, had new cambelt and water pump, 61,000 miles

07825 395356

£2,700

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE



petrol, 2007, 2 owners, 26,900 miles, fsh, serviced on July 2, 2012, MoT January, MoT January

0775 3981150

£3,750 no offers

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Nimble B-Class feels luxurious

By David Duffy

FEW cars have thrown up so many conundrums for me as the new Mercedes-Benz B-Class.

On the one hand it is much roomier than its predecessor with a tangible improvement in trim quality and a genuinely luxurious feel.

Dynamically styled, sleek and sporty and packed with advanced safety technology, it is also fitted with one of the most intelligent satellite navigation systems I have ever used.

Then there is the engine. On the test model, it was a new 1.8-litre turbo diesel engine delivering the tempting prospect of well over 60mpg in day-to-day travel.

All well and good then, but it was the engine that threw up the first puzzle. Fire it up from cold and there is a real old-fashioned diesel clatter that persists until the car hits 35mph, when it smooths out and the car's poise returns.

The second irritation came from the decision to install an electronic parking brake as standard. Many manufacturers have gone down this route as it is a neat solution that frees up the space between the front seats. But while many disengage automatically as soon as the accelerator is pressed, the B-Class brake needs to be set and released manually which, in heavy traffic, and

combined with a manual gearbox, quickly becomes a real pain.

Like anything, you learn to live with these irritations but they are not what you expect in a classy range of cars that start at just over £21,000.

On the plus side, the B-Class, especially when fitted with the lower sports suspension, firmer springs and dampers, and faster-acting steering, is superbly nimble.

Light and manoeuvrable around town, the five-seater is sharp and precise on country roads and settles down at speed to deliver relaxed cruising. Wind and engine noise are muted at speed but the wide tyres fitted to the car's 18-inch alloy wheels suck up road noise.

Safety technology is superb with a radar-based system that warns if the set safety distance from a vehicle ahead narrows. All models are also fitted with an attention-assist system that continuously monitors the steer-



SAFETY FIRST: A radar-based system warns if the set distance from a vehicle ahead narrows

ing and alerts a potentially tired driver with a 'take-a-break' warning. The intuitive satnav on the test model could be solely operated by voice commands.

The quality of the interior is a marked improvement conjured up by a sumptuous blend of fake leather, silver chrome and satin-finish polished aluminium.

And it is just as practical as it is glitzy with plenty of cabin space for five and a whopping boot.

There is plenty of choice in the new B-Class range with 14 models, four engines, two transmissions and two trim levels.

Auto facts

Model: Mercedes-Benz B 200 CDI BlueEfficiency Sport
Price: £24,710
Insurance group: 20 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 64.2mpg
Top speed: 130mph
Length: 435.9cm/171.6in
Width: 178.6cm/70.3in
Luggage capacity: 17.1 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 11 gallons/50 litres
CO2 emissions: 121g/km
Warranty: Three years/unlim mileage

Overseasdrivingscene

Drivers warned to carry two breathalyser kits

NEW motoring laws have come into force in France making it compulsory for drivers to carry breathalyser kits in their vehicles.

Motorists and motorcyclists will face an on-the-spot fine unless they travel with two single-use devices as part of a government drive to reduce the number of drink-drive related deaths.

The new regulations, which excludes mopeds, will be fully enforced and include foreign drivers from November 1 following a four-month period of grace.

Anyone failing to produce a

breathalyser after that date will receive an 11 euro fine.

French police have warned they will be carrying out random checks on drivers crossing into France via ferries and through the Channel Tunnel to enforce the new rules.

Retailers in the UK have reported a massive rise in breathalyser sales as British drivers travelling across the Channel ensure they do not fall foul of the new legislation.

Car accessory retailer Halfords said it was selling one kit every minute of the day and said it had rushed extra stock into

stores to cope with the unprecedented demand.

Six out of 10 Britons travelling to France are not aware they have to carry two NF-approved breathalysers at all times, according to the company.

The French government hopes to save about 500 lives a year by introducing the new laws, which will encourage drivers who suspect they may be over the limit to test themselves with the kits.

The French drink-driving limit is 50mg of alcohol in 100ml of blood — substantially less than the UK limit of 80mg.

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Wheelsanddeals

■ **WHICH?** has named Kia as its Best car Manufacturer for 2012 in its annual awards, praising the company's "superb new range of cars" as well as the brand's value for money and "industry-leading" seven-year warranty. Dealer principal of Joblings Kia, in Launton Road, Bicester, Paul Jobling, said: "At Joblings, we've kept an eye on Kia's steady rise in popularity and quality and have always been confident about its future. I'm thoroughly delighted that such acclaim from *Which?* has come to Kia from the UK's biggest consumer champion."

■ **VOLKSWAGEN** is set to become the first dealer network in the country to embrace digital technology as a way of strengthening its customer experience with a new 'digital showroom'. Ridgeway, which has Volkswagen sites in Kidlington, Ifley Road, Oxford, and Wantage, have launched an innovative service which enables customers to configure their dream car on in-store iPads.

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* Source: Continental Research 2008; 41% respondents stated they used local media as a source of information when looking to buy a car from a private seller. Local media = newspaper websites and supplements.

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08(58) BMW 5 SERIES 520D SETOURING TD, Blue, 70,000 Miles.....	£13,495
08(08) AUDI A4 TDI S LINE SPECIAL EDITION, Met Silver, 73,000 Miles.....	£12,495
09(09) VOLVO V50 STD, Black, 37,500 Miles.....	£12,495
10(10) SEAT EXEO S CR 2.0 TDI, Blue, 25116 Miles.....	£11,995
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2006	56	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4, Metallic Grey, 5 Door, One owner, Very good service record, PAS, Electric windows, Aircon, Radio/CD, Alloys, Lovely condition throughout, Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear	£3795
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2002	52	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.8 LS, Silver, 5 Door, Air conditioning, PAS, Electric windows, Central locking, Local car, Sold with a new MOT, a service and a new cambelt, HPI Clear	£1895
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	Mercedes Benz SL 500 Auto Convertible, 2003, Metallic Blue, 77000 mls, leather, climate control, sat nav, e/roof, fogs, e/seats, wood pack.....	£13499
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	Renault Megane 1.6 Auto Dynamique Convertible, 2008, Metallic Silver, 21000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, electric roof, CD, rear rests.....	£6999
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	Seat Leon 2.0 5dr DSG Auto, 2009, Metallic Grey, 39000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, mp3, r/lock, carbon.....	£9499
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	Saab 9.3 1.9 Diesel Vector Auto Sport, 2007, Metallic Silver, 38000 mls, leather, CD, alloys, cruise.....	£7299
	Saab 9.3 2.0 Se Convertible, 2002/51, Metallic Silver, 48000 mls, leather, air con, e/roof, alloys, CD.....	£3999
	Saab 9.3 1.9 D 150 Vector Convertible, 2009, Metallic Blue, 26000 mls, air con, leather, alloys, CD, e/roof, r/lock, fogs.....	£12799
	Saab 9.3 Turbo Diesel Auto Convertible, 2007, Metallic Silver, 45000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, CD, electric roof, tints.....	£8499
	Saab 9.5 Vector Sport T 2.0 Auto, 2005/55, Metallic Grey, 32000 mls, climate control, r/lock, alloys, rear rests, cup holders, storage pack.....	£4699
	Saab 9.3 1.8 T Vector, 2004/54, Metallic Blue, 32000 mls, air con, alloys, r/lock, CD, air bags, m/f wheel.....	£5299
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	Ssangyong Rexton 270 SE7 Diesel, 2008, Metallic Silver, 29000 mls, leather, alloys, CD, r/lock, aircon.....	£7799
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	Suzuki Grand Vitara 5dr Estate 1.6V 2006, Metallic Silver, 60000 mls, air con, alloys, CD, r/lock.....	£6199
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	Subaru Forester XT Estate, 2003, Metallic Blue/Grey, 65000 mls, leather, air con, alloys, rails, CD.....	£5699
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